

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00758 250012Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 758

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SUPPORTS ALEJO STATEMENT
ON ATTENDANCE AT MFM

REF: MEXICO 703

1. IN A PRESS RELEASE OF JANUARY 23, THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CHARACTERIZED STATEMENTS MADE BY NATIONAL PATRIMONY SECRETARY FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO REGARDING GOM ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHEDULED MFM IN BUENOS AIRES AS "TOTALLY CONGRUENT" WITH THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED MEXICAN POSITION. ALEJO HAD SAID, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THAT MEXICO WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MFM UNLESS CUBA ATTENDED. THE FONSEC RELEASE SAID: "WHAT SECRETARY ALEJO SAID DOES NOT DIFFER FROM THAT WHICH THE MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT HAS SUSTAINED INVARIABLY FOR OVER A YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS GIVEN TO FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA."

2. MODERATE EL SOL ALSO CITES THIS MORNING AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW GIVEN YESTERDAY BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO A REPORTER FROM THE LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES, IN WHICH ECHEVERRIA CONFIRMED THE POSITION EXPRESSED BY ALEJO.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 00758 250012Z

3. INFLUENTIAL NATIONALIST EXCELSIOR AGAIN EDITORIALIZED TODAY AGAINST MEXICAN ATTENDANCE AT BUENOS AIRES, WARNING THAT UNDER PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MEETING WOULD INEVITABLY FAIL.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE FONSEC'S HASTY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH THE "CONGRUENCE" BETWEEN ALEJO'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND EARLIER STATEMENTS BY GOM OFFICIALS, THE FACT REMAINS THAT ALEJO, NOT FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA, TOOK OR WAS GIVEN THE LEAD IN ESTABLISHING GOM POSITION. END COMMENT.

5. MEANWHILE, GOM ATTENTION TO BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA REMAINS INTENSE. MEXICAN EDUCATION MINISTER BRAVO AHUJA HAS SPENT MOST OF PAST WEEK SQUIRING HIS CUBAN COUNTER-PART AROUND COUNTRY. THIS MORNING THEY SIGNED YET ANOTHER BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND I AM TOLD THAT BRAVO IS HOSTING A FORMAL LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR THIS AFTERNOON.
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